

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for manufacturing a molded product having a molded portion, the method comprising:

5 forming a releasing agent layer on a wall surface of a cavity of a mold by injecting a first liquid containing a releasing agent into the cavity and depressurizing the cavity; and

10 forming the molded portion by supplying a molding material into the cavity after the releasing agent layer is formed.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the depressurization of the cavity is performed immediately
15 before the injection of the releasing agent ends or after the injection of the releasing agent ends.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the releasing agent is injected when depressurizing the cavity.
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4. The method of claim 1, wherein the injection of a first liquid and the depressurization of the cavity are performed when the mold is closed.

25 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the first liquid includes the releasing agent and a solvent, and the cavity is depressurized to a pressure at which the solvent boils.

6. The method of claim 5, further comprising:
30 recovering the solvent vaporized in the cavity when the cavity is depressurized; and

reusing the recovered solvent as the solvent of the releasing agent.

7. The method of claim 6, further comprising:
collecting the releasing agent discharged from the
cavity.

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8. The method of claim 6, wherein the solvent is
recovered by a recovery device arranged at a higher position
than the mold.

10 9. The method of claim 8, wherein the releasing agent
is collected by a collection device arranged in a recovery
passage connecting the recovery device and the mold.

15 10. The method of claim 1, wherein the molded product
has a surface layer on at least part of its surface, the
method further comprising:

superimposing the surface layer on the releasing agent
layer formed on the wall surface of the cavity by injecting
a second liquid containing material of the surface layer
20 into the cavity and depressurizing the cavity.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein the molded product
is an insert molded product including an insert member
occupying at least part of the molded product.

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12. The method of claim 11, further comprising:
arranging the insert member in the cavity before
forming the releasing agent layer.

30 13. The method of claim 11, wherein the insert molded
product is a vehicle steering wheel, and the insert member
is a metal core.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein the metal core has a convexity or a concavity in at least part of a portion corresponding to a grip of the vehicle steering wheel.

5 15. The method of claim 1, wherein the injection of the first liquid includes injecting a previously measured amount of the first liquid into the cavity.

10 16. A method for manufacturing a molded product using a mold having a cavity, the method comprising the steps of:
 forming a releasing agent layer on entire surface of the cavity when the mold is closed; and
 supplying molding material to the cavity after the releasing agent layer is formed to form the molded product.

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 17. The method of claim 16, wherein the step of forming a releasing agent layer includes the steps of:
 closing the mold;
 injecting a first liquid including a releasing agent
20 and a solvent that vaporizes under a reduced pressure into the cavity; and
 depressurizing the cavity to a pressure at which the solvent vaporizes.

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 18. The method of claim 17, wherein the step of injecting a first liquid includes injecting a previously measured amount of the first liquid.

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 19. The method of claim 18, further comprising the steps of:
 recovering the solvent vaporized in the cavity when the cavity is depressurized; and
 reusing the recovered solvent as the solvent of the

releasing agent.

20. The method of claim 17, wherein the molded product has a surface layer on at least part of its surface, the
5 method further comprising the step of:

superimposing the surface layer on the releasing agent layer formed on the surface of the cavity by injecting a second liquid containing material for forming the surface layer into the cavity and depressurizing the cavity.